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CLAIMS

1. Counterweight, connectable to a washing machine tub (2), comprising an hollow
20 shell (3) of U-shaped cross-section for containing a concrete ballast mass (4) poured
therein, **characterized in that** said shell (3) is integrally provided in one piece with at least
a foldable member (5) adapted to close at least a portion of said shell (4) in order to
encapsulate said concrete ballast mass (4).

2. Counterweight according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said foldable member (5)
25 comprise a cover extending from a peripheral edge (8) of said shell (3) in correspondence
to enlarged lower portions (6) thereof, said peripheral edge (8) integrally provides pivotal
sections (9) adapted to facilitate the ~~rotation~~ of said foldable member (5) around the
peripheral edge (8) so that the ballast mass contained in the enlarged lower portion (6) are
covered by said foldable member (5).

30 3. Counterweight according to claim 2, **characterized in that** said foldable member (5)
has a peripheral edge comprising a clamping rim (10) adapted to engage a corresponding
edge of said shell (3) to close the enlarged lower portion (6) and encapsulate the ballast
mass (4).